

Program Evaluation Survey

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR THIS PROGRAM

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| 1. County | Orange |
| 2. Program Name | Immediate Accountability Program |
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THE PROGRAM

9. Briefly describe interventions that will be used in this program.

Program Interventions: Expedite initial case assignment/Risk assessment process; Use of probation volunteers to expedite linkage with Community-based programs and monitor compliance with accountability requirements; Greater reliance on community-based organizations to provide restorative justice programming and parent education for this lower-risk juvenile offender population. Thereby providers increase time dedicated to increased intervention of medium to high risk offenders.

10. Briefly describe, in general terms, the expected beneficial effects of the program (especially the benefits as they relate to what you are going to measure; e.g., if the primary dependent variable is "grade point average," then the goal would be to improve the grade point average.

Expected benefits/goals of the program: Reduce time from wardship declaration to implementation of program services; Reduction of Deputy probation officer time expenditure on lower risk cases (exclusive of the Initial Assessment process) with corresponding increase in time expenditure to more serious juveniles and, as a system, more overall time on interventions; Maintenance of low new law violation rates; Minors will satisfy accountability requirements (e.g., Restitution, fines, community service) and spend less total time under formal probation supervision.

11. Name and briefly describe the type of research design that you intend to use to determine whether or not this program produces the desired outcomes.

Quasi-Experimental Design. The evaluation will involve both process and outcome measures utilizing comparison groups from other Probation service delivery regions, and from the same region on an historical basis.

12. Briefly describe the process evaluation research that you intend to conduct.

Process evaluation measures will include: The length of time between the date of 602 WIC Wardship declaration and the date of: 1) Assignment to a Field Supervision officer; 2) Initial Risk Assessment (completion); and, 3) Wardship termination (or, transfer to an Admin/Relief of Supervision caseload). The number/type(s) of probation supervision contacts. The number/types of community resource referrals.

COMPARISON GROUP

13. Will there be a comparison group?

Yes

14. If you answered 'no' to #13, how will the effectiveness of the program be evaluated?

N/A

15. Will the treatment and comparison group subjects be randomly assigned from the same pool of subjects?

No

16. If you answered 'no' to #15, what kind of comparison group will you use?

Two comparison groups: (1) a group of first-time wards supervised in other Probation service delivery regions during the first year of the new program period; and (2) a group of first-time wards supervised in the same Probation service region (N. Orange Co.) in a historical time period, (i.e., one year prior to program implementation).

17. Briefly describe the process for identifying and assigning the comparison group subjects.

Existing databases maintained by the Probation Department's research unit and the Department's computerized case management system will be used to identify the comparison group wards and to collect the requisite evaluation data.

18. List the criteria for participation that must be met by the comparison group subjects (e.g., age, probation status, gender). Next to each, list the level of the variable that will be used for subject selection (e.g., age 12 or higher, ward of the probation department, males).

Probation Status - First-time wards residing in Orange County. Offense Severity - Non-violent offense. Initial commitment status - No commitment greater than 90 days. "8%" Risk categories - None. (Problems identified are in normal range.) Initial Risk Classification: Low-Medium. Probation Supervision Region: - > Historical comparison - North Orange County Field supervision Region; -> Current comparison - Central, South, & West Field Supervision Regions.

19. List any other independent variables that you will be collecting for the comparison group (e.g., risk assessment score, legal history, grade point average, school attendance, drug use).

Impact of changes in processing time (i.e. from wardship declaration through completion of Initial Risk assessment). Impact of process changes (i.e. Number and type of supervision contacts). Pre-post changes in Risk Classification and on "8%" Risk factors.

20. Will the comparison group be matched to the treatment group in terms of any variables?

No

21. If you answered 'yes' to #20, list the matching variables that will be used.

NA

22. If you answered 'yes' to #20, briefly describe how the comparison group will be matched to the treatment group.

NA

23. If you answered 'no' to #20, briefly describe why you believe that the treatment and comparison groups will possess the necessary comparability.

The criteria used to identify and select the comparison-group subjects should ensure comparability with the treatment group. (NOTE: This comparability will be verified).

24. How many subjects will participate in the comparison group during the entire course of the program?

150 ~~for~~ each comparison group with complete data (i.e., initial, during program, termination and 6-month follow-up tracking information).

TREATMENT GROUP

25. Briefly describe the process for identifying and assigning treatment-group subjects.

Following wardship declaration, the three North County Supervising Probation Officers with assistance from the Immediate Accountability DPO and a cadre of probation volunteer will complete an assessment of all first-time wards to identify those wards meeting the selection criteria.

26. List the criteria for participation that must be met by the treatment group subjects (e.g., age, probation status, gender). Next to each, list the level of the variable that will be used for subject selection (e.g., age 12 or higher, ward of the probation department, males).

Probation Status - First-time wards residing in North Orange County. Offense Severity - Non-violent offense. Initial commitment status - No commitment greater than 90 days. "8%" Risk categories - None. (Problems identified are in normal range.) Initial Risk Classification: Low-Medium. Probation Supervision Region: -> Historical comparison - North Orange County Field supervision Region; -> Current comparison - Central, South, & West Field Supervision Regions.

27. List any other independent variables that you will be collecting for treatment group (e.g., risk assessment score, legal history, grade point average, school attendance, drug use).

Impact of changes in processing time (i.e. from wardship declaration through completion of Initial Risk assessment). Impact of process changes (i.e. Number and type of supervision contacts). Pre-post changes in Risk Classification and on "8%" Risk factors.

28. How many subjects will participate in the treatment evaluation research samples?

150 ~~with~~ complete data (i.e., initial, during program, termination and 6-month follow-up tracking information).

DESCRIPTION OF THE INTERVENTIONS

29. List the interventions that only the treatment group will receive (interventions that are not received by the comparison group). Next to each intervention, state in measurable terms, the goals of the intervention. For example, a goal might be: "to improve reading level of program participants."

Greater reliance on community-based organizations to provide restorative justice programming and parent education for this lower-risk juvenile offender population. Expedite initial case assignment/Risk assessment process. Use of probation volunteers to expedite linkage with Community-based programs and monitor compliance with accountability requirements.

30. List the interventions that only the comparison group will receive (interventions that are not received by the treatment group).

No unique interventions are planned for the Comparison Group

31. List the interventions that both the treatment and comparison groups will receive (i.e., in what ways, in terms of interventions, will the treatment and control subjects be treated in the same).

All subjects will have received risk assessments and will have been under formal Probation supervision for a period of not less than 90 days .